

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0547

SECDEF FOR ASD:ISA(SA)/DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUBJ: TAFT-IRAN FY 76

REF: SECDEF 272016Z DEC 74

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON SECDEF MESSAGE RE
FY 76 TAFT PACKAGE. FIRST, WE HAVE COMMENTS FOR INTERNAL STATE AND
DOD CONSIDERATION:

A. WE QUESTION WHETHER TAFT PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ASSIGNED
TO HAWK BATTERIES FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) IF BATTERIES SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN ACTUAL AIR-TO-GROUND
COMBAT WHILE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED AT SITES FOR
TRAINING DUTIES, USG WILL BE TAGGED AS COMBAT PARTICIPANT BY PRESS.
OUR EXPLANATIONS, NO MATTER HOW REASONABLE, WILL BE OF LITTLE AVAIL
AGAINST HOSTILE CONGRESSIONAL AND ARAB REACTIONS. WHILE THIS IS
HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION, WE FEEL DOD AND STATE SHOULD BE AWARE OF
POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS AT OUTSET OF TAFT ASSIGNMENTS.

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(2) BATTERIES ARE TO BE LOCATED AT REMOTE SITES WHICH WILL

PRODUCE MORALE PROBLEMS FOR AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO WILL NOT RECEIVE EXTRA COMPENSATION WHICH MIGHT BE PAID TO PRIVATE CONTRACTORS FOR SIMILAR DUTY.

(3) RAYTHEON HAS DONE A VERY SATISFACTORY JOB THUS FAR IN HAWK PROGRAM AND GOI WOULD HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR OBJECTING TO ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL TO BATTERIES.

(4) SUBSTITUTION OF U.S. ARMY IHAWK PERSONNEL BY RAYTHEON EMPLOYEES WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE PROPOSED INCREASE IN TAFT PROGRAM.

B. STATE AND DOD OFFICIALS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT INCREASE IN TAFT POPULATION IS ONLY PART OF TOTAL INCREASE IN DOD PERSONNEL IN IRAN WHICH MAY BE ANTICIPATED BY FY 76. WE HAVE IN MIND POSSIBLE INCREMENTS FROM PEACE CROWN AND PEACE SCEPTER PROGRAMS, MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION (IF APPROVED) AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO MONITOR LARGE FMS CONTRACTS, E.G., F-14 AND POSSIBLE CO-PRODUCTION PROJECTS
C. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT WISH TO DELAY WORK ON FY 76 TAFT PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT A PROJECTION BE MADE OF LIKELY INCREASES IN DOD PERSONNEL IN IRAN. TEHRAN AND WASHINGTON TOGETHER SHOULD WEIGH POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND U.S. POSITION HERE.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN VIEW RECENT CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESS CRITICISM OF PROVISION OF SCARCE DOD MANPOWER FOR IRAN, NEXT YEAR'S TAFT PACKAGE WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY PRESENTED TO CONGRESS. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF FMS CASES TOTALING MORE THAN \$25 MILLION WILL ALSO BE A FACTOR IN CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF PROGRAM. WE SUGGEST STATE AND DOD OFFICIALS MAKING PRESENTATION LAY OUT PROGRAM AS COMPREHENSIVELY AS POSSIBLE. FOLLOWING POINTS MIGHT BE USEFUL IN PRESENTATION:

A. U.S. HAS SOLD IRAN ALMOST \$9 BILLION IN MILITARY HARDWARE, A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY. IN MAKING THESE SALES, USG UNDERTOOK AN IMPLICIT RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE THAT EQUIPMENT COULD BE EFFECTIVELY ASSIMILATED BY IRANIAN ARMED FORCES.

B. IRANIAN ARMED FORCES STILL SUFFER FROM MAJOR DEFICIENCIES OWING TO COUNTRY'S SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER. OUTSIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY DURING INITIAL PHASES OF PRACTICALLY ALL
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IRANIAN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR IRANIAN MILITARY CAN BE PROVIDED BY A COMBINATION OF U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL. LATTER WILL SUPPLY FAR LARGER PART OF INSTRUCTOR BILLETS.

C. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL, IN CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN IRANIAN CONFIDENCE IN U.S. SUPPORT, THAT CERTAIN NUMBER OF INSTRUCTOR BILLETS BE

FILLED BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. IRANIANS HAVE ONLY LIMITED CONFIDENCE IN CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS AND DESIRE ASSURANCE PROVIDED BY PRESENCE OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL.

D. WE SHOULD MAKE IT VERY CLEAR IN PRESENTING THIS PROGRAM TO CONGRESS THAT WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS AND IDENTIFIED THOSE TRAINING FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARY AS A MINIMUM TO SUPPORT GOI HARDWARE ACQUISITIONS. GOI HAS NOT PRESSED FOR ANY DEFINITE NUMBER OF TAFT PERSONNEL. AT OUTSET OF PROGRAM IN 1973, THE SHAH WAS SATISFIED WITH TOTAL OF 600 TAFT PERSONNEL. WHILE GOI WOULD HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO OUR INTENTIONS IF WE REDUCED TAFT PROGRAM BELOW THAT FIGURE, THERE IS NO MAGIC NUMBER WHICH MUST BE PROVIDED TO SATISFY GOI'S DESIRES. AS LONG AS WE CAN ASSURE GOI THAT WE WILL PROVIDE REASONABLE NUMBER OF UNIFORMED TRAINING PERSONNEL, WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN AVOID ANY SERIOUS IRANIAN OBJECTIONS OF A POLITICAL NATURE. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO DETERMINE NUMBER OF TAFT PERSONNEL ACTUALLY REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR IRANIAN MILITARY BUILDUP. WE SHOULD REVIEW PROGRAM CAREFULLY TO PRECLUDE EXCESS OR UNDERUTILIZED PERSONNEL. IN OTHER WORDS, WE SHOULD AVOID ARBITRARY MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM CEILINGS; WE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY OUR BEST JUDGMENT AS TO WHAT PERSONNEL MUST BE ASSIGNED TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FOR IRAN'S NEWLY ACQUIRED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. AFTER TAFT CONTRACT IS SIGNED, PERSONNEL SHOULD BE CALLED TO IRAN ONLY AS ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS ARE IDENTIFIED.

E. TAFT PERSONNEL DO NOT DUPLICATE MAAG FUNCTIONS AND MAAG/TAFT RESPONSIBILITIES CAN BE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHED. MAAG ELEMENTS PROVIDE CONTINUING SERVICES FOR IRANIAN MILITARY, ADVISING COUNTERPARTS ON SUCH BROAD QUESTIONS AS POLICY, HARDWARE PROCUREMENT AND PLANS. TAFT PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED TO IRAN FOR PRECISE TRAINING TASKS FOR PRESCRIBED PERIODS. ON COMPLETION OF THOSE TASKS, TAFTS WILL BE WITHDRAWN. LONGER TERM PRESENCE OF MAAG ADVISORS IN IRAN IS A CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPONENT OF OUR WELL-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS COUNTRY.

F. TAFT PERSONNEL ARE LIMITED TO TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS ONLY AND DO NOT ENGAGE IN OPERATIONS FOR IIA. IF MAINTENANCE OR OTHER OPERATIONAL TASKS ARE REQUIRED FROM OUTSIDERS, IRANIANS MUST HIRE CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS.

G. TAFT PROGRAM IS TOTALLY FUNDED BY GOI. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO IRAN RECEIVE EXACTLY THE SAME TREATMENT THEY WOULD RECEIVE IF FINANCED BY USG, I.E., THEY NEITHER RECEIVE SPECIAL BENEFITS NOR DO THEY SUFFER ANY DEPRIVATIONS.

3. FINAL TAFT PACKAGE SHOULD BE APPROVED BY AMBASSADOR BEFORE SUBMISSION TO GOI.

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